

[59 cont.]

20. Law

671 The norms of natural law among the Bushmen are the
627 same as among us. The family head is at the same time the supreme judge. Since even the nearest kin group is regarded in a sense as a foreign state, however, the boundaries between law, war, and vengeance are exceedingly fluid. The domain of law, therefore, is actually confined to the family. Since the only
[68] punishment that can be effectively inflicted is the death penalty, it is rarely applied among married men, [60] for the judges and executioners must provide for the condemned man's survivors. In olden times the women condemned to death were burned or beaten to death with the kirri, and the men were killed with the poisoned arrow.

423 The right to personal possession of utilitarian objects, honey, and certain types of veldkost is strictly respected. The soil is common property of the kin group, as is any big game
[224] that is killed. If a wounded animal dies in the domain of the neighboring kin group, the hunter must go there and report it. The dead prey must then be divided. Since, however, there are
[578] some unpaired organs, fighting and killing easily arise concerning them. Blood vengeance is practiced, but can be resolved
[627] through negotiation.

423 "Each kin group has a territory that has been inherited
614 from ancient times. The territory is called Gao and might correspond to the German concept Gau [canton, district].

[361] "There are kin groups that are so far apart that a journey of several days lies between them. For example, the territory north of the Omuramba-Owambo near Kajus, where the manketti tree (Ricinodendrum bantaneni) occurs, belongs to a kin group that ordinarily lives over 1,000 [sic] kilometers away and comes there only when the oleaginous fruit is ripe.

"Kin groups with two hunting and gathering regions, come into being through the fusion of two kin groups that have inter-married for so long that fusion came about automatically.

769 "The graves of the ancestors are within the kin group's territory. They are marked by the large piles of stone placed on them.
614 The ancestors are regarded as the guardians of the kin group's